

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

The Examiner initially allowed claims 23-29 and rejected claims 31-35. Although Applicants disagreed with the rejection, to expedite prosecution, the rejected claims were canceled on May 25, 2004. Applicants reserve the right to file continuation and/or divisional application(s) drawn to the canceled claims. The application was subsequently allowed by Examiner Prebelic on July 1, 2004, with a due date of October 1, 2004 for payment of issue and publication fees. On September 13, 2004, prior to payment of the issue and publication fees, this application was withdrawn from issue.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-2228. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-2228. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of

papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R.  
§1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2228.

Respectfully submitted,

Date December 15, 2004 By Michele Van Patten Frank

PATTON BOGGS LLP  
Customer Number: 32042  
Telephone: (703) 744-7907  
Facsimile: (703) 744-8001

Michele Van Patten Frank  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 37,028